

DEPARTMENT OF FAIR EMPLOYMENT & HOUSING

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**DFEH SEMINARS TO REVIEW LEGISLATIVE CHANGES
TO STATE DISCRIMINATION LAWS**

SACRAMENTO – Significant changes in California's civil rights laws will take effect January 1, 2001, and the State Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH) will host its second set of statewide informational seminars in November and December to assist consumers, employers, small businesses, housing providers, and attorneys in understanding and preparing for these changes.

Attorneys and administrators from the Department's legislative, legal and enforcement divisions will summarize and answer questions about this year's legislative changes to the Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA) and the Unruh Act, which covers discrimination in public accommodations. Some of the significant amendments to be discussed at the seminar include: co-employee liability in harassment situations, changes to the senior housing exemption, new requirements regarding the removal of illegal restrictive housing covenants from property-related documents, precedent-setting Fair Employment & Housing Commission (FEHC) decisions, discrimination-related case law updates, and the upcoming DFEH Pilot Mediation Program.

Noting the success of last year's seminars, Dennis Hayashi, DFEH Director, stated, "It is extremely important that the Department continue to provide quality education and technical assistance to the public. Effective enforcement of California's anti-discrimination laws is premised on employers, small businesses, and housing providers knowing precisely what their legal obligations and responsibilities are. These seminars are designed specifically for this purpose."

(more)

DFEH Legislative Seminars

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The schedule of the seminars is as follows:

- Wednesday, November 15, 2000, from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. at the County of Orange, Board of Supervisors Chambers, 10 Civic Center Plaza, Santa Ana, California.
- Tuesday, November 21, 2000, from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. at the Department of General Services, 1515 Clay Street, Oakland, California.
- Monday, November 27, 2000, 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. at the County of San Bernardino, Board of Supervisors Chambers, 385 N. Arrowhead Ave., San Bernardino, California.
- Wednesday, November 29, 2000, from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. at the State Office Building, 1350 Front Street, Room B-109, San Diego, California.
- Details will be announced for additional seminars to be held during December in:
 - Sacramento: Wednesday, December 6, 2000
 - Fresno: Wednesday, December 13, 2000
 - Bakersfield: Thursday, December 14, 2000
 - Los Angeles: Monday, December 18, 2000

Written material will be provided at the seminars and information about the statutory changes will also be posted on DFEH's website at www.dfeh.ca.gov.

The Department has also applied for continuing education credits (MCLE) for attorneys who desire to participate.

The seminars are free and open to the general public. Seating is limited and participants must pre-register by calling Karen Gilbert at DFEH at (916) 227-2888 or by faxing a request to (916) 227-2870.

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